

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 16, 2020
To: Harbor Commission
From: Karl Treiberg, Acting Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

PARADE OF LIGHTS RECAP

Decorated to the theme of “Deep Space Holidays,” 13 boats made their way through the parade course on December 8, on a brisk clear evening for the 33rd annual Parade of Lights. Parade entries were down this year, due to rain and wind. Luckily, the wind calmed and the skies cleared just in time for the event. After the final boat passed a judging stand at the Conway Deep Sea Wine Tasting Room on Stearns Wharf, a five-minute fireworks show signaled the end of the parade that was enjoyed by thousands of spectators throughout the Waterfront.

Preceding the Parade of Lights, the festivities began at Santa’s Village on the City Pier where over 400 children and families visited Santa and played amid 10 tons of fresh snow. The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (SBMM) provide gift bags to all the children prior to making their wishes known to Santa. An awards ceremony at SBMM concluded the festivities with a dinner buffet provided by Chuck’s Waterfront Grill.

This year’s first-place award winners included:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Vessel Name</u>
Commercial Fishing	<i>Perseverance</i>
Commercial Other	<i>Channelkeeper</i>
Powerboat	<i>Coconut</i>
Sailboat	<i>Sugar</i>
Human Powered	<i>Kayak</i>

Winners took home hundreds of dollars in cash and prizes donated by local merchants.

This year’s event was sponsored by the 2019 Parade of Lights Committee, City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department, Santa Barbara Harbor Merchants Association, Stearns Wharf Business Association, and Santa Barbara Yacht Club. Considering the fun of this event and the rich prize packages, it’s not too early to circle your calendar for next year’s Parade of Lights on Sunday, December 13, 2020.

BOATS AGROUND AFTER WINTER STORMS

During the early morning of December 26th, two vessels ran aground at Leadbetter and

East Beach. The sailing vessel, *Wits End*, grounded on East Beach and the trimaran, *Sunflower Gale*, grounded at Leadbetter Beach. A special thanks to the Facilities Division staff for their quick response and assistance in cleaning up debris from the *Sunflower Gale* as it began breaking up in the surf line immediately after the grounding. Both boats were eventually removed from the beach by MarBorg Industries.

Additionally, at approximately 5:30 a.m. on January 5, the sailing vessel, *Felicity*, went aground farther east of the *Wits End* on county property. The vessel is still on the beach and owner information has been forwarded to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department.

SURRENDERED AND ABANDONED VESSEL EXCHANGE (SAVE) GRANT AWARD

The Waterfront Department submitted a grant application to the State Parks Department, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), for the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) program in March of 2019. DBW took months to review the applications and awarded a grant in the amount of \$70,000 in late December.

The SAVE program allows local public agencies to accept and dispose of derelict or abandoned vessels, or vessels likely to become abandoned that are voluntarily surrendered to the City, for disposal. The funds are used to reimburse the City 90% of the cost of disposing vessels acquired under this program.

SAFETY AND SECURITY SURVEY

To help assess the safety and security of our marinas and related facilities, an online survey has been created to get the public's input. The survey will help the Waterfront Department identify areas of need as well as develop and prioritize security strategies moving forward.

Notification of the survey was included in the current edition of the Waterfront's newsletter, *Docklines*. A QR code was included in the article to simplify access to the survey. Interested parties can also access the survey online, at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/harborsecurity>

Waterfront staff will report the results of the survey at an upcoming Harbor Commission meeting.

Prepared by: Erik Engebretson, Interim Harbor Operations Manager